

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2052
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05133

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UK, XF
SUBJECT: FCO ON RESULTS OF PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. DURING CONVERSATION MARCH 29, EMBOFF ASKED ARAB-ISRAELI DESK OFFICER IN FCO, BLATHERWICK, IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO ADD IN LIGHT OF LAST FEW DAYS REPORTING TO JIC ASSESSMENT OF MARCH 24 ON RESULTS OF PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS. BLATHERWICK SAID HE HAD NO REASON TO AMEND THE ASSESSMENT, BUT THAT FCO HAD SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED FROM CAIRO AN INTERESTING TELEGRAM, WHICH HE PASSED TO EMBOFF. CONDENSATION FOLLOWS:

2. SAYED KAMAL, DEPUTY HEAD OF PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, TOLD BRITISH MOST IMPORTANT POINT IN FINAL DECLARATION WAS ARTICLE 15. NEGOTIATING MANDATE IN THIS ARTICLE, HE SAID, IS NOT LINKED EXCLUSIVELY TO UNGA RESOLUTION 3236, BUT TO "INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED SINCE 1974 CONCERNED WITH PALESTINE OR THE ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION, ESPECIALLY RESOLUTION 3236". KAMAL SAID THE PLO
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NOW WANTED TO GET TO GENEVA BUT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FIRST FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT A NEW RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE STATE. BRITISH EMBOFF ARGUED THIS PRECONDITION COULD CAUSE GREAT DIFFICULTY. KAMAL CLAIMED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF PALESTINIAN CONGRESS ACCEPTED NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT STATE BUT HE WAS EVASIVE ON WHETHER THIS

CONSENSUS EXTENDED TO A MINI-STATE.

3. KAMAL SAID THE REJECTION FRONT HAD PLAYED A FULL PART IN THE DRAFTING OF THE DECLARATION AND HAD GONE ALONG WITH IT UNTIL THE LAST DAY. ONLY WHEN IT WAS PUT TO THE VOTE DID THEY REGISTER DISSENT, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT TRUST ARAFAT TO CONFORM TO ANY MANDATE HE WAS GIVEN.

4. KAMAL SAID THAT THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS MORE MODERATE. FCO KNOWS DAJANI. KAMAL SAID THAT QAHWAJI WAS ORIGINALLY FROM ACRE AND HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SYRIANS AND FATAH; THAT TOBASI IS A CHRISTIAN MEMBER OF FATAH; AND THAT ABU RAMADHAN WAS THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN GAZA IN 1967 WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED AND EXPELLED BY THE ISRAELIS. NOW LIVING IN CAIRO, HE IS A MEMBER OF FATAH AND HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS.

5. BLATHERWICK COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT HE HAS ASKED FCO RESEARCH DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS WHETHER THE NEW PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS INDEED ALL COMPOSED OF MODERATES, AS ASSERTED BY THE ECONOMIST.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST A U.S. ASSESSMENT WHICH WE CAN EXCHANGE WITH BLATHERWICK ON A US-UK ONLY BASIS AS TO WHETHER ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAN IN FACT BE CONSIDERED "MODERATES".

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